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CLAIMS:

1.   A method of generating a depth map (106) comprising depth values representing distances to a viewer, for respective pixels of an image (100), the method comprising:

-           segmenting the image (100) into a first segment (110) and a second segment
5   (108); and

-           assigning a first one of the depth values corresponding to a first one of the pixels of the first segment (110) on basis of a first size of the first segment (110) and assigning a second one of the depth values corresponding to a second one of pixels of the second segment (108) on basis of a second size of the second segment (108) whereby the first
10   one of the depth values is less than the second one of the depth values if the first size is less than the second size.

2.   A method as claimed in Claim 1, whereby the first size is computed by determining a first number of neighboring pixels (204-208) which are disposed on a line
15   extending from a first side of the first segment (110) to a second side of the first segment (110).

3.   A method as claimed in Claim 1, whereby the first size is computed by counting a second number of pixels (200-218) which are disposed inside a contour which is
20   located on an edge of the first segment (110).

4.   A method as claimed in Claim 1, whereby the first size is computed by accumulating a set of probability values.

25   5.   A method as claimed in Claim 4, whereby the probability values represent probabilities that respective pixels belong to the first segment (110).

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6.   A method as claimed in Claim 5, whereby the set corresponds to pixels disposed on a line extending from a first side of the first segment (110) to a second side of the first segment (110).

5   7.   A method as claimed in Claim 4, whereby the probability values represent probabilities that the first one of pixels and a third one of the pixels belong to the first segment (110).

8.   A method as claimed in Claim 4, whereby a first one of the probability values

10   is based on a further distance between the first one of the pixels of the first segment (110) and a contour which is located on an edge of the first segment (110).

9.   A depth map generating unit (501) for generating a depth map (106) comprising depth values representing distances to a viewer, for respective pixels of an image

15   (100), the generating unit comprising:

-          segmentation means (502) for segmenting the image (100) into a first segment (110) and a second segment (108); and

-          assigning means (504) for assigning a first one of the depth values corresponding to a first one of the pixels of the first segment (110) on basis of a first size of

20   the first segment (110) and for assigning a second one of the depth values corresponding to a second one of pixels of the second segment (108) on basis of a second size of the second segment (108) whereby the first one of the depth values is less than the second one of the depth values if the first size is less than the second size.

25   10.   An image processing apparatus (600) comprising:

-          receiving means (602) for receiving a signal corresponding to an image (100); and

-          a depth map generating unit (501) for generating a depth map (106), as claimed in Claim 1.

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11.   A computer program product to be loaded by a computer arrangement, comprising instructions to generate a depth map (106) comprising depth values representing distances to a viewer, for respective pixels of an image (100), the computer arrangement

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comprising processing means and a memory, the computer program product, after being loaded, providing said processing means with the capability to carry out:

- segmenting the image (100) into a first segment (110) and a second segment (108); and

5   - assigning a first one of the depth values corresponding to a first one of the pixels of the first segment (110) on basis of a first size of the first segment (110) and assigning a second one of the depth values corresponding to a second one of pixels of the second segment (108) on basis of a second size of the second segment (108) whereby the first one of the depth values is less than the second one of the depth values if the first size is less

10   than the second size.